

By act of the Legislative Council, 11 December 1824, Tallahassee was named and ordered to be surveyed. As the Act did not specify the street names, and no other documentation exists (the original survey has long been lost), the precise action responsible for naming the streets is unclear. Common practice was to allow that prerogative to the surveyor. In that case, the person responsible would have been either Robert Butler, appointed surveyor for the Territory of Florida on 10 July 1824; Benjamin Teunille, appointed Leon County surveyor on 30 December 1824; or Robert McIver, one of the first settlers on the scene who must have had some role in making the first--however tentative--decisions about the layout of the town.

In any case the names we now accept as being the original ones were legally and commonly accepted by the time of the initial sale of lots in Tallahassee in April 1825. (The City of Tallahassee itself was not incorporated until 9 December 1825, so the street names antedate the city.)

As in so many other new towns in the early nineteenth century, the streets and parks were named after well-known persons, especially those who were famous for acts in the Americas. Tallahassee memorialized the presidents (Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe), military figures (Greene, Jackson, Wayne and LaFayette), governors (DuVall and Clinton), territorial figures (Bronaugh, Gadsden and Gaines), and the secretary of war at the time of the acquisition of the Floridas (Calhoun). By 1827, when the lands to the north and west of the original quarter section were opened--and perhaps in the original survey of 1824-25--the street names of McCarty and Bolivar had been adopted. McCarty had been a judge and secretary of the Territory of Florida and Simon Bolivar was Liberator of the Spanish colonies in South America. Referred to by Americans as the George Washington of South America, he was a well-known and popular hero in the United States.

Of the original street names, four have been changed--two by official action of the city council and two by the use of the citizens in a process which Dr. Dorothy Dodd refers to as folk etymology. The simplest, and most direct, was the change from Bronaugh to Bronough. The change from Bolivar to Boulevard is well documented. Finley's map of Florida (1831) referred to the street as "Bolivar;" Tanner's map of Florida (1836) carried the process further to "Bolivard." From there it was only a short step to Boulevard.

McCarty was the next to be changed. Early called the "Two Hundred Foot Street" (in reference to its width), its official name was always McCarty. That name was well accepted in common and official use as late as the turn of the century. The name was changed to Park Avenue by the city council on 12 October 1905 following presentation of a petition from property owners and residents of the street. The new name, it is clear, accurately reflected the situation in 1905--since the present parks there were in the process of becoming well-established at that time. But the impetus for the change seems to